

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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HEARING RESCHEDULED AND SPECIAL MASTERS APPOINTED IN MATTER CONCERNING JUDGE RODNEY E. NELSON

On December 7, 2005, the Commission on Judicial Performance announced it had instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge Rodney E. Nelson, a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court. The hearing, originally scheduled for February 6, 2006, has been rescheduled to begin on Monday, March 13, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in a courtroom at the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 125 South Grand Avenue in Pasadena, California. The hearing will be open to the public.

Under the rules that govern Commission proceedings, the hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the Supreme Court: Judge Allan D. Hardcastle, Superior Court of Sonoma County; Judge Thang Nguyen Barrett, Superior Court of Santa Clara County; and Judge Desiree A. Bruce-Lyle, Superior Court of San Diego County.

At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Commission Trial Counsel Jack Coyle, Esq. has been designated as examiner. Judge Nelson is represented by attorney Edward P. George, Jr., of Long Beach, California.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the Commission with a report containing their findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to respond to the report through briefing and argument before the Commission. If the Commission determines that the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to retire the judge for disability as provided in the California Constitution.

The Commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is Marshall B. Grossman, Esq. of Los Angeles, California.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the Commission's Web page at www.cjp.ca.gov.